

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875			Application or Docket Number 10/576,170	Filing Date 04/18/2006	<input type="checkbox"/> To be Mailed
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I					
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA		RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A		N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEARCH FEE				N/A	

the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17-24, 27, 28 and 31-37 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 13, 14, and 15 are amended; and claims 35-37 are canceled. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17-24, 27-28 and 31-34 are currently pending in the instant application of which claims 7-12 and 19-24 are withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 13-15, 17-18, 27-28, and 31-32, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,176,069).

Yamazaki et al., however, fails to render the claimed invention unpatentable. Each of the claims recite a specific combination of features that distinguishes the invention from the prior art in different ways. For example, independent claims 1 and 3 recite a combination that includes, among other things:

“etching the wiring using an atmospheric-pressure plasma device having a linear plasma generator using the resist mask as a mask by generating plasma between a first electrode of the linear plasma generator and a second electrode surrounding the first electrode of the linear plasma generator, wherein at least the first electrode has a sheet-like shape.”

Independent claim 13 recites yet another combination that includes, *inter alia*,

“etching the wiring using an atmospheric-pressure plasma device having a plurality of linearly-arranged plasma generators using the resist mask as a mask by generating plasma between a first electrode of the linear plasma generator and a second electrode surrounding the first electrode of each of the plurality of linearly-arranged plasma generators, wherein each of the first solution ejector and the second solution ejector has three ejection ports forming a triangle.”